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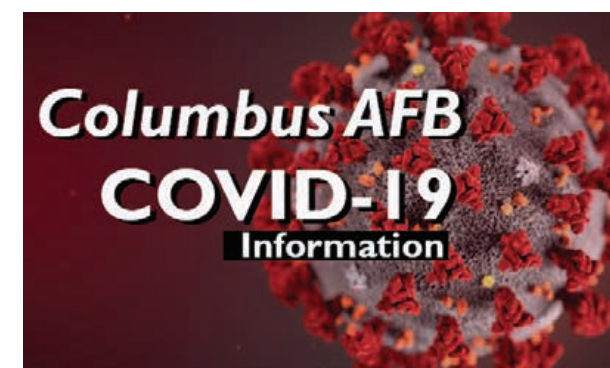
SILVER WINGS

"Train World Class Pilots"

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Vol. 45, Issue 24

December 17, 2021



COVID-19 General Info

The base is continually focusing to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus and will persistently prioritize the safety of the Airmen, families and communities of Columbus.

Off-limit areas include any business or establishment that does not comply with Federal, State, and local COVID requirements. See Pg. 2 for more COVID-19 info.

Social Gathering Limitations

- Kaye – 92 person limit
- Event Center/Club – 145 person limit
- Phillips Auditorium – 22 person limit
- Walker Center – 112 person limit



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie
U.S. Air Force Maj. Benjamin Hammett, stands at attention during his Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training graduation, Dec. 10, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Hammett was one of three distinguished graduates from class 22-03 and also received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy.

Class 22-03 students achieve aeronautical rating

By Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Twenty-four officers graduated from Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 22-03, achieving the aeronautical rating of pilot, Dec. 10, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

To earn this title and their Air Force wings, each student flew nearly 200 hours during a 54-week period. Along with flying, students are tasked with completing 400 hours of flight-re-

lated classroom instruction and simulator training.

The graduation speaker for class 22-03, U.S. Air Force Col. Justin Spears, 14th Operations Group commander, shared advice and wisdom to the new aviators.

"These young men and women are the future of our air power that is going to be feeding our Air Force in this national security environment over the next twenty years," Spears said.

See GRADUATION, Page 5

CHECK OUT COLUMBUS AFB ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Columbus AFB YouTube page



columbus_afb



Columbus AFB Facebook page



www.columbus.af.mil



Air Force Medical Service demonstrates reliable trifecta supporting patients, nation, world

By Lindsay Mahon

Air Force Surgeon General
Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — When most people think of the Air Force Medical Service they probably imagine staff in the various clinics at the local military treatment facility, and they would be correct.

Whether working behind the glass barrier of the pharmacy, the private room of the mental health clinic, or in the lab, medics take care of the vital mission of keeping beneficiaries healthy and service members ready.

However, there is much more Air Force medics do.

“Air Force Medicine exists to protect our nation,” said Surgeon General of the Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert Miller. “In addition to providing medical care to military and non-military beneficiaries, Air Force medics play a key role in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and, of course, combat missions, delivering much needed medical and operational support to warfighters, the nation, allies and partners.”

Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance missions push medics out of their comfort zone and force a new level of collaboration and coordination in challenging circumstances. These missions lay the groundwork to build and maintain positive connections with allies and partners, while strengthening other nations’ medical capabilities.

An International Health Specialist Program was established more than 20 years ago as part of the AFMS’s Global Health Engagements efforts by former U.S. Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Paul K. Carlton Jr., with a goal to extend the operational reach of the joint forces.

International health specialists apply regional expertise, cultural competency and foreign language proficiency to effectively engage with partner nations to build meaningful relationships.

One of the many advantages of IHS missions is they often create the opportunity for cooperation that may not have previously been on the table. In some cases, sharing much needed medical expertise and knowledge sets the stage for other types of military engagements going forward. These small wins support the nation and the overall National Defense Strategy in ways typical military or diplomatic efforts may have never achieved. As a result, peace and stability are enhanced.

For example, a humanitarian medical mission with Laos in 2007 eased tensions between the two countries which dated back to the mid-1970s. Air Force medics paved the way for more bilateral engagements, marking the first time in nearly three decades the Department of Defense had engaged with the Laotian military.

A shift in focus from just performing routine medical care to influencing a bigger portion of the operational mission is a huge takeaway for many Air Force medics.

“Being an international health specialist requires adaptability, open-mindedness, resourcefulness and big-picture thinking. Through big-picture thinking, we can develop whole-of-government solutions when unexpected global crises strike,” said Master Sgt. Mouhamed Gadiaga, International Health Specialist Program manager.

“When I became an international health specialist, it all came together. It was the first time I could really see how my actions, and the actions of my fellow nurses, really contribute to our national security strategy,” said Col. Donna Hornberger, international health specialist.

Disaster Relief

In the wake of devastation, or in underserved areas of the world, the unique capabilities Air Force medics bring to the table are critical to saving lives. These highly trained professionals remain ready and prepared to deploy in whatever size pack-

age the mission calls for, and often deploy with limited equipment and supplies.

Once mobilized, support can range from aeromedical evacuations, patient staging, and any level of care in mobile medical clinics, to bioenvironmental engineers checking for hazards and everything in between.

While these missions make a positive impact on those receiving support, Airmen also benefit by sharpening their skills and treating injuries that are difficult to simulate in a training environment.

“When we work in garrison, we have additional doctors, technicians and machines available if something goes wrong,” said Capt. Kimpreet Kaur, 59th Medical Wing anesthesiologist. “These limited conditions [in disaster relief missions] help prepare us for what we might see if we deploy downrange in the future, which in turn will help us save countless lives.”

Air Force medics have been involved in disaster relief missions since the early days of the AFMS, as part of the Air Force Disaster Assistance Team. In recent years, Air Force medics have responded to everything from hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, volcano eruptions, to the ongoing pandemic.

Most recently, a Disaster Assistance Response Team deployed to Haiti to assist in the aftermath of an earthquake there Aug. 14.

“Responding to natural disasters is distinct from the warfighting mission in that [for combat deployments] you typically know when your unit is deploying months in advance, it involves quite a bit of planning, and you have time to train,” said Lt. Col. Amanda Hill, 140th Medical Group commander. “Compared to natural disasters which are not ... predictable, you need to be able to respond within a few hours and deploy your skills effectively in the most challenging of circumstances.”

When the COVID-19 pandemic threatened the nation, medics found

See COVID, Page 5

Silver Wings

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Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week’s SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2424.

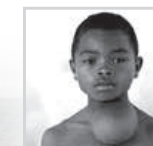


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The Commercial Dispatch is seeking a full time sales representative for an established territory in Columbus. Our sales representatives spend most of their time calling on area businesses and working with those businesses to develop effective marketing campaigns. We sell impactful newspaper print, magazine print and online marketing opportunities.

The ideal candidate is competitive, self-motivated and enjoys talking to others.

Compensation includes a base wage plus commission. Healthy bonus commissions are awarded monthly when goals are exceeded. Health insurance and other benefits are available.

Sales experience is preferred but not required. A drive to be successful is required though. Email cover letters and resumes to bproffitt@cdispach.com.

CIRCULATION ASSISTANT/ CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

The Commercial Dispatch is seeking a part-time person to fill a multi-faceted position

The ideal candidate will possess attention to detail, great phone skills, excellent communication skills, the ability to handle working with the public, fellow employees, and contracted carriers.

Requirements:

- Reliable transportation
- Excellent driving record
- Current vehicle insurance
- A passion for customer service
- COVID shot required
- Drug Test Required

The selected candidate can expect to work 25-32 hours a week but must be flexible if more is needed.

Applications are available at the front office of The Dispatch at 516 Main Street, Columbus, MS or email your resume directly to: Mike Floyd at mfloyd@cdispach.com

COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 9)

Survivor Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision. Always get the true facts about SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Mary Chambers at (662) 434-2720/2790.

Personal Financial Readiness

Need help with financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor (PFC) can help you and your family: manage finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-term goals such as education, buying a home and planning for retirement. PFC services are at no cost, private and confidential. Please contact the PFC at (662) 998-0411.

Key Spouse Program (KSP)

The mission of KSP is to provide information and resources to military spouses, supporting families in successfully navigating through the military life cycle. The KSP is a CC’s program. The CC establishes and maintains the program within the unit, to include choosing team members.

FSS

(Continued from page 10)

Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed

Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? Arts & Crafts is looking for craft instructors. For more information, contact (662) 434-7836.

Wood Shop

The Wood Shop is now open by appointment only, Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The cost is \$5 for first hour and \$3 for every hour after the first. Please call (662) 434-7836 for any questions.

Referees Needed

Referees needed for various sports at the Fitness Center. For more information or to sign up, contact (662) 434-2772.



Once selected as a KS in writing, you will need to attend initial/refresher KS training and continuing education. For more information, please call (662) 434-2839.

Military and Family Life Counselor Program

Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (single and married), spouses and other family members cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All counselors are licensed mental health providers, and they can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services, and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, please call (662) 435-1110.

Sponsorship Training

An electronic version of sponsorship training called eSponsorship Application & Training (eSAT) is the required training course to become a sponsor. It can be found in Military One Source’s MilLife Learning training Course Catalog at this link <https://millifelearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/?p=SIS:2:0>. More online resources are available on Columbus AFB Living at <https://www.columbusafbliving.com/airmen-family-readiness-center/relocation-assistance/electronic-sponsor-resources/>. For additional information, please contact the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

RV Storage Lot

Don’t clutter your home space, park with us. Outdoor Recreation offers a great place to store your RV year around. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call (662) 434-2505.

Instructors Needed

The Youth Center is seeking instructors for tumbling classes, dance classes, piano and guitar lessons. For more information, contact the Youth Center.

Space A Lodging

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at (662) 434-2548. Guest Services staff is on duty from 6 a.m.–10 p.m. daily. For reservations 24/7, visit <https://af.dodlodging.net/properties/Columbus-AFB>.

Be responsible
this holiday
season.
Don’t drink
and drive.

Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events

Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Instagram at columbus_afb_living, or visit our website at ColumbusAFBliving.com to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact (662) 434-2337.

Get Connected with Your Base App!

As a way to connect people together, Columbus Air Force Base launched a new app to connect Airmen and families to the mission and community! The app is available on all app stores and can be found by searching 'Columbus Air Force Base'.

The Print Shop Has Moved!

The Print Shop has moved to The Commons, building 715, room 128. It is located in the back of the Commons and can be accessed either from the main entrance or from the parking lot directly behind the base Chapel. Services include large format printing, mounting, laminating, color and black/white copying, binding, and much more. For a quote call (662) 434-2337 or email 14FSSColumbus@gmail.com.

Youth Program's After School Care

The Youth Center is offers After School Care for ages 5-12. The center provides games, sports, arts & crafts, educational enrichment, social skills, leadership building and much more. Request care at MilitaryChildCare.com or call (662) 434-2504 for more information.

Library

The Library, located in The Blaze Commons, is open for in-house customers Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. For everyone's safety, masks are required for patrons ages 3 and up and parents must remain with their children at all times.

The Library is hosting Storytime at your library every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Meet in the Blaze Commons open area for a story read by your favorite Librarians!

December Crafts & Activities

Your Library will have the following crafts and activities to get you in the holiday spirit this December: All month long, pick up a take-home snowflake activity to decorate or a winter activity booklet to work on throughout the season. Now until the 20th, pick up the materials to write a letter to Santa! Letters are due back to the Library on December 21st.

See all of the Library's activities visit their Facebook page: @ColumbusAirForceBaseLibrary.

Fitness Center

The Columbus AFB Fitness Center and the Alpha Warrior tent is open Monday-Friday 5 a.m.-9 p.m. and on Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. It is open on Sunday for 24/7 Access members only (CAC must be registered at the front desk prior to use).

The Fitness Center is now serving all DoD cardholders and eligible contractors during normal hours of operation.

24/7 access is available to not only Active Duty patrons, but also any DoD cardholder such as dependents, retirees, and civilian employees. CAC must be registered at the front desk.

Also, the locker rooms and showers are once again available. Please note there will 100% ID card check, limited rental equipment available, and other risk mitigation plans still apply.

For more information, call the Fitness Center at (662) 434-2772.

Also, the basketball and racquetball courts are now available! Check-in at the front desk required.

Arts & Craft Has Re-Opened!

Arts & Crafts has reopened and ready to serve your framing,



engraving, and wood working needs, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call (662) 434-7856 for assistance.

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation's (ODR) hours are Monday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.(closed Tuesday and Wednesday) and Saturday/Sunday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. ODR offers all sorts of rental for the water, camping, and much more! Call ODR at (662) 434-2505 for all of your outdoor activities.

Coffee House on 5th

Coffee House on 5th, located in the Blaze Commons, is back open to 50% capacity inside. Drive through or come in to enjoy a cup of coffee or a tasty treat. Their hours are Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m.- noon. Call for more information at (662) 434-2233.

Columbus Club & The Overrun Bar

The Columbus Club and the Overrun Bar are now open Wednesday 3:30 p.m.-7 p.m. and Friday (Drop Nights Only) from 4-8 p.m. (may be extended for special events) for dinner and drinks. Quick bites done just right featuring favorites such as Chicken Tenders, Mozzarella Sticks, and French Fries.

Also, don't forget the Club offers Catering services. Call (662) 434-2490 for more information.

Let's Connect! Boss & Buddy Night at the Club Wednesdays from 3:30-7 p.m. and enjoy a few brews with your boss and buddies.

Bowling Center

Bowling will be available by appointment or walk-in, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 7 a.m.- 2 p.m. On Wednesdays it will close at 1:00 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome or call for reservations, call (662) 434-3426 or on Facebook @ColumbusAFBBowlingCenter.

Strike Zone Grill at the Bowling Center!

The Strike Zone Grill (also known as the Snack Bar) is open for DINE-IN and TAKE-OUT service. The expanded eating area will allow for social distancing. Grab'n go products will be available including during bowling.

The StrikeZone Grill is open for breakfast and lunch. For breakfast they are open from 6:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Monday-Friday. For lunch the grill is open from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Monday-Friday. The center is closed on Saturday and Sunday. For take-out orders, call (662) 434- 3426.



Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT)

Local ITT Customer Service will be temporarily handle by Keesler AFB. Please call Holly or Trish at (228) 377-3818 Tuesday – Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Local Shuttle Service will be handled by ODR on Monday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This includes shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Stop by ODR or call (662) 434-2505 for more information.

Assignment Night Transportation

Book Assignment Night transportation with ITT! Reserve the bus, the van or both! The cost is only \$30 per hour for Columbus and local areas; a \$30 deposit is required and applied to the total cost of reservation. Reservation must be a minimum of four hours and reserved in person. For more information, contact (662) 434-7861.

Exclusive Military Vacation Packages

Did you know that you can book exclusive military vacation packages at ITT and save up to 60%? American Forces Travel is now serving APF and NAF civilians. Packages include Universal Studios and Disney destinations. To book your vacation at www.americaforcestravel.com

FSS Gift Cards

Make your shopping easier! Purchase or redeem your FSS Gift Card at the following locations: Arts and Crafts, Bowling Center, Child Development Center, Columbus Club, Information Tickets and Travel, Outdoor Recreation or the Youth Center. For more information, stop by any of these locations.

Horse Boarding Available

The CAFB Riding Stables usually has stall space available. For pricing and more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at (662) 434-2505.

Free Mango Languages

Learn a new language today! Free Mango Languages available at the Base Library; real-life conversations in over 70 languages. For more information, contact (662) 434-2934.

Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair

Outdoor Recreation is now offering lawn mower repair and a self-help bicycle repair station that patrons can use for free. For more information, contact (662) 434-2507.

See FSS, Page 11



Courtesy photo

In this photo from March 1970, Jacksonville Mayor John Harden christens Little Rock Air Force Base's first C-130 Hercules. The aircraft was named the "City of Jacksonville." Looking on, at the right, is Colonel Richard J. Gibney, then wing commander of the 64th Tactical Airlift Wing.



THREE C-130s OF 314TH TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING MAKE PERSONNEL DROPS AT LITTLE ROCK AFB, ARKANSAS, OPEN HOUSE, 6 JULY 1985.

Courtesy photo

The C-130 has been a feature of the greater Little Rock and Central Arkansas community for more than fifty years now, and has been prominently featured in the skies overhead. In this photograph, we see the Hercules demonstrating its airdrop capabilities at a 1985 airshow.

AETC Heritage: Celebrating 50 years of C-130 training at LRAFB

19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — On Jan. 23, 2022, Air Education and Training Command will celebrate 80 years of recruiting, training and educating the men and women of the United States Air Force.

Since 1997, the 314th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base has served under AETC as the nation's tactical airlift "Center of Excellence," focusing squarely on the C-130 training mission.

For the 314th AW, it is often said that "Herk Nation starts here." After all, every C-130J Super Hercules pilot and crew member receives training here. Wherever they go, if they're flying or working in a C-130, they first learned how to do it at Little Rock AFB.

But when did Herk Nation start here?

It started 50 years ago this year—in 1971—when Little Rock AFB first received its mission to train students from across the DoD and from select allied partners in the C-130 Hercules.

Little Rock AFB actually received its very first C-130 airplane in March 1970, which was named the "City of Jacksonville." This occurred when the 64th Tactical Airlift Wing moved in as the base's host unit and the first C-130s began arriving that spring, but their mission at this time was purely operational.

Little Rock AFB actually received its very first C-130 airplane in March 1970, which was named the "City of Jacksonville." This occurred when the 64th Tactical Airlift Wing moved in as the base's host unit and the first C-130s began arriving that spring, but their mission at this time was purely operational.

Barely a year later, the 314th Tactical Airlift Wing, known today as the 314th Airlift Wing, transferred into Little Rock AFB from its mission in Taiwan and took over as Little Rock AFB's host unit. This occurred on May 31, 1971.

A few short months after establishing the 314th TAW at Little Rock AFB, the Air Force next transferred responsibility for all DoD Lockheed C-130 Hercules formal flying training from the 464th Tactical Airlift Wing, stationed at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., to the 314th TAW at Little Rock AFB. This happened in August 1971, and Little Rock AFB

has owned this training mission ever since.

With the reorganization of tactical airlift training at Little Rock AFB, the 314th TAW ended up with three flying squadrons, each equipped with C-130 aircraft: the 16th Tactical Airlift Squadron, which provided Phase I training for entry-level qualified C-130 pilots and flight engineers; the 61st Tactical Airlift Squadron, which carried forward the operational mission begun in 1970, providing airlift capability around the world; and the 62nd Tactical Airlift Squadron, which was made responsible for the Replacement Training Unit training that had previously been accomplished by the 464th TAW at Pope AFB.

The first C-130 students at Little Rock AFB were two navigators, who entered Phase I training on Aug. 5, 1971. In October 1971, the base began training its first international students as well, when on Oct. 9, 1971, Italian air force crews initiated their C-130 training at Little Rock.

Altogether, thousands of C-130 pilots and crew members have been trained at Little Rock AFB over the past 50 years.

Today, the wing is responsible for training more than 1,200 students, including more than 150 international students, making it the DoD's largest international flight training program.

As we carry out into the future, our Herk missions at Little Rock AFB will carry upwards and onwards for many years to come!

Introducing BRAVO: A hackathon series for Air Force, industry

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Air Force’s new STITCHES Warfighter Application Team, or SWAT, in close coordination with the Office of the Chief Information Officer, AFWERX, Air Combat Command, the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center and others are organizing the first known Department of Defense-wide classified innovation hackathon called BRAVO @ Nellis Jan. 5-12 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

A hackathon is an innovation event commonly employed by security communities and technology companies, in which teams self-form and develop working prototypes urgently in response to challenges often accompanied with data.

In an unprecedented collaboration of Air Force, Navy, Army, and Department of Defense civilians along with an expected 10+ industry companies, hackers – data scientists, product managers and engineers – will rapidly prototype capabilities of their choosing on Air Force Weapons System data with mentorship from Air Force and DoD leaders.

Unlike other DoD technical environments, BRAVO will allow hackers to bring open source or proprietary software into the environment quickly, such as the JAIC’s Joint Common Foundation

development platform. This allows for unprecedented software collaboration to be used on classified DoD data.

“I began planning this hackathon with a peer, Jimmy Jones, this summer while still at DARPA before being hired by the USAF,” said Stuart Wagner, chief digital transformation officer for the Department of the Air Force. “We realized the extent of underleveraged raw data available from various Air Force weapons systems and we want to fundamentally shift Joint All Domain activities from talk and imagine exercises to development exercises on real weapons system data.”

Wagner, a former software developer at Microsoft, coded a sex trafficking disruption prototype on a winning Microsoft hackathon team after just three months working there. That capability, now known as Freedom Signal, has since scaled to dozens of police departments and non-profit organizations around the United States.

“This is a beta test of a radical military innovation model that will allow any capable DoD civilians or military members to build and validate capability and impact U.S. and foreign partner national security after one week of effort. Once we validate our model, we will scale this to 500+ inter-service, inter-agency, foreign partner hackers,” Wagner said.

The BRAVO hackathon series is named from Project B, a 1921 series of joint Army-Navy target exercises conducted on surplus

ships in response to Army Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell’s claim that bombers sink battleships. This claim undermined the then current investments and strategy of the Navy and then Department of War.

Project B was authorized by SECWAR and SECNAV to disprove and disgrace Mitchell by demonstrating the insignificance of airpower. Mitchell instead directed his bombers to destroy all the test ships, changing military strategy, defense resourcing for aeronautics and aircraft carriers, and ultimately the Department of War by proving the need for a separate Air Force military department.

Styled off Project B, BRAVO hackathons are sponsored by senior DoD leaders to provide technical and cultural innovation environments that enable government and industry to test and validate bold ideas on real DoD data. These events align under Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ. Brown, Jr.’s Sept. 17, 2021, memo requiring senior leaders to enable Airmen to experiment and innovate.

A limited number of spots remain for members of government who are interested in attending. Registration remains open until December 15th: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-bQ_ZvK3y2BoIZHUZNU2ehJdWFr9o5jcxVb4I9KkjfAEgrA/viewform.



A bomb lands forward of the Ostfriesland on July 21, 1921.



Courtesy photo

Project B proved bombers beat battleships and kickstarted a century of airpower innovation. Although the exercises validated Army Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell’s claim that bombers sink battleships, he was never promoted to a role to lead the change. In 1925, he provided a lengthy statement, summarized as: “All aviation policies, schemes, and systems are dictated by non-flying officers of the Army or Navy who know practically nothing about it.” He was consequently court martialed.”



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Air Force Readiness Programs

(Editor’s note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790.)

“Please note events are subject to change due to COVID-19, so please contact A&FRC to confirm all events”

Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 5. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search using the USAJobs website. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Heart Link

The next “Zoom” Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Jan. 6. This half-day program is open to all spouses of active duty military members assigned to Columbus AFB. Attendees will receive information about life in the Air Force, in the local area and at Columbus AFB from local subject matter experts including spouse leaders. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 10-14 and includes seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP and Department of Labor. Preseparation counseling is required before attending, and recommended attendance is 12-24 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register or for more information, please call the TAP Manager at (662) 434-2631/2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on Jan. 11 from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Columbus Club. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived military and DoD civilian personnel. The event’s foundation is the base’s mobile App, so if you are registered, please locate and download the Columbus Air Force Base App from the App Store prior to attending. Pre-registration is required, so please contact your unit CSS to be registered. For more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m. Jan. 18 in the A&FRC. This workshop is highly recommended for first-time and over-seas relocating members. Get the very latest moving information straight from base-wide relocation

Happy Holidays



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie

Airmen from the 14th Flying Training Wing, dance and sing together at a tree lighting ceremony, Dec. 7, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Various organizations on base got together and provided hot cocoa, cookies, and music during the holiday festivities.

assistance agencies. Learn what to expect before you move with information from Tri-Care, Housing, Military Pay, TMO, Medical Records and A&FRC. Be sure to ask any relocating questions you may have during this event. Pre-registration is required, so call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to register or for more information.

Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition workshop will be held Jan. 27-28 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. This workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 7-8 and will be held in the A&FRC. This workshop helps members identify skills, increase awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop an action plan to achieve career goals. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Bundles for Babies

The next “Zoom” Bundles for Babies workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Mar. 31. This program is designed for active duty AF members and/or their spouses who are pregnant or have a child 4 months old or less. Attendees will learn about finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. A

\$50 gift card sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society will be provided for each qualifying child. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

EFMP-FS

Exceptional Family Members Program-Family Support, EFMP-FS, establishes, implements and maintains the FS (community support) entity of the Air Force EFMP in coordination with the Medical & Assignments components by enhancing the quality of life of special needs family members. Feel free to contact (662) 434-3323/2790 for any questions related to EFMP or for one-on-one assistance. We can assess your needs and make the proper community referral for you and your family!

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the A&FRC. We have volunteer opportunities located across the base for one-time events, special events or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman’s Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities Office and many other locations. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Installation Voting Assistance Office

A&FRC houses the Voting Assistance Office (VAO) which is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed weekends/holidays. The VAO offers voting assistance including voter registration, absentee ballot requests and voting, change of address, and provides answers for oth-

er general voting questions to uniformed service members, their family members and civilians with access to A&FRC. Assistance includes but is not limited to aid in preparing and submitting Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) SF-76, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) SF-186 and National Mail Voter Registration Form (NVRF). The VAO also leads and trains all installation unit voting assistance officers. For more information, please contact the Installation VAO at (662) 434-2701/2790 or e-mail: vote.columbus@us.af.mil.

Discovery Resource Center

The Columbus A&FRC has computers with internet access available for job searches, assessments, resumes, cover letters, state and federal applications and companies’ employment information. A printer and fax machine is available. A lending library of books, DVDs and periodicals on transition and EFMP topics are available for check out. These resources are available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Pre- and Post-Deployment Tour Briefing

These briefings are mandatory for active duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2794/2790 to schedule a briefing and/or for more information.

Pre-Separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, and is to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or 24 months prior to retirement. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to schedule a counseling session and/or for more information.

Employment Workshop

An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday, 1-2 p.m. This program provides military families and DoD civilian members individual assessment and career counseling to assist with local employment, preparation for future endeavors via education, job search, or self-owned business objectives in the local area. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

See COMMUNITY, Page 11

Chapel Schedule

Chapel services are now available.

Catholic: 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays

Daily Mass: 11 a.m. Tuesday- Friday

Protestant: 9:30 a.m. on Sundays

As we gather for services there is a 50 person limit inside the chapel. Thank you all for your help during this time and we are looking forward to seeing you all soon!

BLAZE Hangar Tails: KC-10 Extender

Mission

The KC-10 Extender is an Air Mobility Command advanced tanker and cargo aircraft designed to provide increased global mobility for U.S. armed forces. Although the KC-10's primary mission is aerial refueling, it can combine the tasks of a tanker and cargo aircraft by refueling fighters and simultaneously carry the fighter support personnel and equipment on overseas deployments. The KC-10 is also capable of transporting litter and ambulatory patients using patient support pallets during aeromedical evacuations.

Features

The KC-10 can transport up to 75 people and nearly 170,000 pounds (76,560 kilograms) of cargo a distance of about 4,400 miles (7,040 kilometers) unrefueled.

In addition to the three main DC-10 wing fuel tanks, the KC-10 has three large fuel tanks under the cargo floor, one under the forward lower cargo compartment, one in the center wing area and one under the rear compartment. Combined, the capacity of the six tanks carries more than 356,000 pounds (160,200 kilograms) of fuel - almost twice as much as the KC-135 Stratotanker.

Using either an advanced aerial refueling boom, or a hose and drogue centerline refueling system, the KC-10 can refuel a wide variety of U.S. and allied military aircraft within the same mission. The aircraft is equipped with lighting for night operations.

The KC-10's boom operator controls refueling operations through a digital, fly-by wire system. Sitting in the rear of the aircraft, the operator can see the receiver aircraft through a wide window. During boom refueling operations, fuel is transferred to the receiver at a maximum rate of 1,100 gallons (4,180 liters) per minute; the hose and drogue refueling maximum rate is 470 gallons (1,786 liters) per minute. The automatic load alleviation and independent disconnect systems greatly enhance safety and facilitate air refueling. The KC-10 can be air-refueled by a KC-135 or another KC-10A to increase its delivery range.

General Characteristics

Primary Function: Aerial tanker and transport

Contractor: The Boeing Company

Power Plant: Three General Electric CF6-50C2 turbofans

Thrust: 52,500 pounds, each engine

Length: 181 feet, 7 inches (54.4 meters)
Height: 58 feet, 1 inch (17.4 meters)
Wingspan: 165 feet, 4.5 inches (50 meters)
Speed: 619 mph (Mach 0.825)
Ceiling: 42,000 feet (12,727 meters)
Maximum Takeoff Weight: 590,000 pounds (265,500 kilograms)

Range: 4,400 miles (3,800 nautical miles) with cargo; 11,500 miles (10,000 nautical miles) without cargo
Maximum Cargo Payload: 170,000 pounds (76,560 kilograms)
Pallet Positions: 27
Maximum Fuel Load: 356,000 pounds (160,200 kilograms)

Crew: Four (pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer and boom operator) Certain missions may require additional crew members. In aeromedical evacuation missions, a basic crew of five (two flight nurses and three medical technicians) is added. Medical crew may be altered as required.
Unit Cost: \$88.4 million (fiscal 1998 constant dollars)
Date Deployed: March 1981
Inventory: Active force, 59; Air National Guard, 0; Air Force Reserve, 0



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Mark C. Olsen

A U.S. Air Force KC-10 Extender crewed by Reserve Citizen Airmen with the 76th Air Refueling Squadron moves is refueled by another KC-10 flown by Airmen with the 78th Air Refueling Squadron, both with the 514th Air Mobility Wing, during a training mission over the East Coast Sept. 16, 2018. The 514th is an Air Force Reserve Command Unit located at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Erica Rodriguez

A U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer aircraft is refueled by a KC-10 Extender over an undisclosed location April 14, 2018. The aircraft were taking part in strikes against Syrian targets in response to the use of chemical weapons.

GRADUATION

(Continued from page 1)

The 14th OG conducts Pilot Training and Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals for more than 400 U.S. Air Force and international officers each year utilizing a fleet of 233 T-6A, T-38C and T-1A aircraft and 27 flight simulators at Columbus AFB.

The prestigious Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy, earned for being the most outstanding students overall, was earned by Maj. Benjamin Hammett and 2nd Lt. Thomas Awtrey.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 1st Lt. Mitchell McCulley and 2nd Lt. Megan Foster who excelled in training and embodied the principles of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

The distinguished graduates of Class 22-03 recognized were Hammett, Awtrey and 2nd Lt. Andrew Ellison for outstanding performance in academics, officer qualities and flying abilities.

"You are going to be operating in an environment that is fundamentally different than how the Air Force has operated over the last twenty years," said Spears. "This is the absolute be-



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie

U.S. Air Force Col. Justin Spears, 14th Operations Group commander, returns a salute to Japan Air Self-Defense Force 1st Lt. Kento Katagiri, after presenting him with an International Training Award, Dec. 10, 2021, on Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class 22-03 graduated pilots from Japan, Saudi Arabia and Republic of Turkey.

ginning of what is going to be a tremendous career for you all in the Air Force."

As the new pilots move onward in their careers, they will go to their respective bases and begin training on

the aircraft assigned to them. Some selected officers will stay at Columbus AFB, entrusted with the position of First Assignment Instructor Pilot ensuring the continuation of training world class aviators.

COVID

(Continued from page 2)

themselves on the frontlines using their skills in an unprecedented fashion, and augmenting civilian counterparts to fight a novel virus that there was not much information on initially.

The adaptability of Air Force medics was especially important as they deployed around the U.S.

Between April and June 2021, the 375th Medical Group from Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, deployed 39 medics to the Community Vaccination Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota area in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency response, vaccinating thousands of people.

"The number of people vaccinated is surely impressive, but one of our greatest accomplishments is the lasting positive impression we forged with the community," said Capt. Richard Larson, 375th Health Care Operations Squadron nurse practitioner. "This

community will know that when their people were suffering and needed help, our military answered their call."

Since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic in 2020, hundreds of Air Force medics have deployed, and thousands remain on standby, supporting communities in need all over the U.S.

Combat

Lessons learned from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, combined with formal education, training and partnerships with civilian hospitals, prepare Air Force medics to save lives in combat, both on the ground and in the air.

On Aug. 26, three C-17 Globemaster III aircraft with aeromedical evaluation crews and Critical Care Air Transport Teams launched to evacuate injured U.S. service members and Afghan nationals following the bombing at Kabul's airport.

Air Force medics cared for multitudes of sick and injured personnel in the air and at every stop back to the

U.S.

"In medicine, we sometimes get isolated behind the four walls of the medical treatment facility. But medicine is not just about seeing patients or clinical work. It's bigger than that," Miller said.

No matter where Air Force medics go, they bring with them unique capabilities and experience to seamlessly coordinate and execute successful missions.

The Air Force's ability to flex for humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and combat missions makes for a well-rounded trifecta providing trusted and reliable care wherever the nation calls them.

"Air Force Medicine is built on the foundation of commitment to our mission and caring for our patients. This is true on the battlefield, the flooded streets of our coastal communities, in humanitarian missions with partner nations, and in our everyday practice. Every medical Airman should be proud of their ability to support these commitments," Miller said.



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Mon., Dec. 20	8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Tue., Dec. 21	8:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 22.....	9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 23	9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 24	8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 25.....	CLOSED

Visit www.columbus.af.mil to learn about Columbus AFB agencies and other important information.

Identical twins share similar journey to become Airmen

By Randy Martin

Air Force Recruiting Service

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Of the more than 26,600 regular Air Force enlistments in fiscal 2021, statistically speaking, two were extraordinary. Identical twin brothers were recruited by their brother and they attended Basic Military Training together at the same time, in the same unit with both excelling as individuals while on their journey to become Airmen.

“According to public sources, the instances of identical twins in the U.S. is four in every thousand,” said Eric Carlson, a marketing research analyst with Air Force Recruiting Service at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. In an era of reduced propensity to join the military, the uncommonness of Calvin and Cameron Smith’s journey begins there.

Before joining the Air Force, in their hometown of La Grande, Oregon, with a population of about 14,000 people, the twins were active in clubs and sports during their high school career. Family members said that they enjoyed time outdoors and helping their great uncle, an Air Force retiree and Vietnam War veteran who lives in Monroe, Washington, as well as their father with projects such as building construction and land conservation.

After graduation the two opted to stay close to home. “They both lived on campus while studying to become history teachers at Eastern Oregon University, here,” said Andrea Pelascini, the twins’ mother and a La Grande businesswoman. She said that the transition to college life was working but when COVID-19 hampered the social aspect of campus life, both started looking at other career options.

“Cameron reached out to the National Guard recruiter and researched a few other branches but in the end he decided the Air Force was the best fit,” Pelascini said.

So Cameron turned to another sibling to get advice on joining the Air Force. The



Photo by Randy Martin

Then Staff Sgt. Zachary Smith (center), an enlisted accessions recruiter with the 313th Recruiting Squadron in New Hartford, New York, poses for a photograph with his identical twin brothers (Cameron and Calvin) and their parents, Dan Smith (left) and Andrea Pelascini, in Airman’s Arena at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, on Nov. 24, 2021, a few minutes after the twins graduated from Basic Military Training becoming Airmen. Zachary recruited the twins while they were still living in La Grande, Oregon and after they showed interest in serving in the Air Force.

twin’s older brother had recently become an Air Force recruiter. The only trouble was that he was on the other side of the continent.

“Cameron started asking me some questions about my time in the Air Force,” said Tech. Sgt. Zachary Smith an enlisted accessions recruiter with the 313th Recruiting Squadron in New Hartford, New York. Zachary is eight years older than the twins but he said their great uncle had inspired him to join the Air Force and serve in its security forces. “I wanted to be a cop and the Air Force gave me security forces which I love to this day.”

Cameron decided to visit Zachary in New York. Calvin wasn’t as interested but he finally decided to tag along on the 2,700-mile trip from Oregon. Once they reached New York their big brother and Air Force recruiter elected to be patient with his Air Force-applicant siblings. “I didn’t want to pressure my brothers to join, especially if they didn’t like it in the end,” Zachary said.

The twins considered what their brother told them and

both warmed to the idea of joining the Air Force.

“Calvin decided to see how well he would test and he got a high score. When Calvin got serious about wanting to join, the recruiter side of Zach informed him of all the opportunities,” Pelascini said.

They returned to Oregon and Zachary got the call all recruiters enjoy taking.

“Cameron asked me if I could recruit him. I said that I could but he would have to go through the Military Entrance Processing Station in New York,” Zachary said.

After Cameron made his second roundtrip to New York and completed the enlistment process, his twin brother in Oregon decided he would do the same thing. By August 2021, the twins were back in La Grande and ready for the next leg of their journey.

“They honestly were the two easiest recruits I ever had,” Zachary said. “They both understood what I was telling them and both were perfect at the MEPS. I did meetings via FaceTime up until they shipped to Basic Mil-



Photo by Randy Martin

Then Staff Sgt. Zachary Smith, an enlisted accessions recruiter with the 313th Recruiting Squadron in New Hartford, New York, looks on while his younger brother, Airman Calvin Smith, embraces their father, Dan, a few minutes after a Basic Military Training graduation ceremony in Airman’s Arena at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Nov. 24, 2021. Calvin and his identical twin brother Cameron, (seen hugging their mother Andrea Pelascini), were recruited by Zachary while they were still living in La Grande, Oregon, and after they showed interest in serving in the Air Force.

itary Training. They are both very physically fit and very mature for their age.”

The twins left La Grande for BMT at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, on Oct. 10, 2021. “My leadership set them with the same ship date since they are twins and my brothers,” Zachary said.

It was good news for the twins.

“Zach made the recruiting process very smooth,” Cameron said. “It was a real blessing.”

At Lackland the twins were assigned to Flight 010 in the 322nd Training Squadron. Their military training instructors made them be each other’s Wingman, a pairing common in the Air Force that is intended to provide Airmen with a support network. According to their family, it’s a relationship the two have shared since birth.

“Their dad would say that Calvin has always been the front guy while Cameron would be in the back observing,” Pelascini said. “Calvin is the talker while Cameron is the listener. They always have each other’s back. Joining the Air Force and attending BMT together seems like it was

meant to be. They always push and challenge each other in a playful but competitive way so I think this experience was positive for them.”

Despite their readymade support network, BMT proved to be a challenge.

“They called one of us every Saturday,” Zachary said. “They were definitely shocked after the first week. I think they were expecting something else and did not realize how challenging BMT could actually be. As the weeks progressed their confidence had grown and they became more comfortable.”

Letters from the twins kept family across the U.S. informed.

“Cameron was the first to write,” Pelascini said. “He wrote to his dad. It was an emotional letter talking about how thankful he was that his dad had taught him life lessons and was not only a father but his friend. He really was embracing the importance of family and the meaning of time. The next few letters were to me and they were information about his daily routines and spoke of the in-

dividuals he had met and his positive experiences with his instructors. Calvin wrote to me knowing I would share his letters with everyone. As a mom I ask a million questions so Calvin made sure to list all the details and write in-depth about the BMT daily experiences. He also spoke of the friendships he was making and how Cameron was.”

The twins graduated from BMT Nov. 24, 2021, at JB-SA-Lackland. Their mother, father and recruiter had a family reunion with their new Airmen in Airman’s Arena which was filled by hundreds of others who were also seeing their loved ones for the first time in many weeks. There were hugs and tears aplenty on the eve of Thanksgiving in San Antonio.

Cameron had earned acclaim in training for his physical fitness test score and he was preparing to follow in Zachary’s footsteps to security forces training. Calvin, with new ribbons representing awards and airman rank on his uniform, had graduated in the top 10% of their squadron academically and he was preparing to enter the geospatial intelligence career field.

“It was great to go through BMT together because the beginning is stressful and at night we could talk to each other and provide each other support,” Calvin said.

They didn’t know if they would eventually be stationed together but Calvin said that he expected their requests for future assignments to look alike.

Their recruiter hugged his brothers.

“I feel like a little dad, helping them become the individuals that they are,” Zachary said.

After Thanksgiving and departure to homes in Oregon and New York, or in the twin’s case, technical schools in Texas, family members said that they hoped to have another reunion around Christmastime in La Grande.

“We are so proud of Calvin and Cameron,” Pelascini said. “They are both amazing individuals destined to do great things!”